

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of August 18, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending were Wayne Aiken, Liam Bryant, Ely Carter-Williamson, Pete Donofrio, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Haydon Harrison, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

3. Status

Ken Howard reported that Main 4 was shorting this morning. It is working now. The problem appears to be set up when the switches in the yard on Module 9 are aligned in a certain way. Until the problem is sorted out, don't use the yard on Module 9. Ralph James and Chuck Larnerd will check out this problem. Ken stated that we need more people to gain the knowledge of the electronics and wiring of the layout. Those interested should let Ralph know.

Ken also noted that when he returned from vacation the wye on Main 2 was not working. Upon investigation he and Ted Kunstling found a block switch had been turned off causing the problem.

4. Throttles

We still have five newer throttles at Digitrax being repaired.

Older throttles are still being used by some members and guests. Do not press the power button on these throttles as it will turn off track power.

We are currently missing three older throttles. They have inventory numbers of 370, 371, and 421. Please be on the lookout for these throttles. If found, please return to the storage box in the Shop.

5. Found Engine

An engine was found on the shelves without an inventory number. It is an Athearn GP-40x, Southern 7001. If you know who may own this engine, please let us know.

6. Instructions

Ted Kunstling shared a copy of the manual for Engine Driver that he had printed off the internet. He suggested anyone wanting to know about the app do likewise.

7. Raffle Layout

Collin Martinko is leading a team of members who are building an HO layout from scratch for the raffle at the November show. The layout will be 4x8 made up of two 4x4 pieces. We look forward to seeing this layout at the show.

8. Module 4

Plans need to be made and finalized on what to do with Module 4, formerly Berlin. Several items of interest have been suggested. These include: an ice platform, an engine servicing facility, an interconnection between Mains 3 and 4 on Module 9.

Jim Smith suggested the use of number six double slip switches to save space.

Ted Kunstling suggested an intermodal facility.

Other suggestions included a tobacco (cigarette) factory, a station, a furniture plant, a textile mill, and a brick plant.

Ken Howard will develop a proposal from this input and present it back to the group at the next meeting. The challenge will be to determine how many of the suggested industries will be feasible in the space available.

Interconnections from the yard to Main 4 were discussed. Chuck Larnerd volunteered to lead this effort. Jim Smith volunteered to help on this project. The project will be added to the project book.

Clif Kelly asked about the condition of the refinery on Module 8. There are no current plans to modify the existing structures or track.

9. Open House

Members are reminded that we have an Open House planned for October 5th and a visit from the Mid-East Region of NMRA on October 18th.

10. Mt. Witwer

Ken Howard stated that it is time to begin building the scenery of Mt. Witwer. Pete Donofrio volunteered to help on this project. A team comprised of Bob Witwer, Collin Martinko, Milo Poulin, and Ken Howard will meet to develop the topography plan for the area. After that, a work day will be scheduled to actually begin building the mountain.

11. Instructions

Ralph James and Chuck Larnerd have been tasked with writing up a set of instructions for powering up the HO layout as well as providing simple troubleshooting tips.

12. Miscellaneous

Collin Martinko expressed concerns about using powered Atlas switches due to the size of their switch machines. Ken Howard assured him we have a good supply of switch machines and ground throws available.

Jake Forbes noted that some cars need to be removed from the inventory. After some discussion, it was suggested that members that want a car removed from the layout should fill out a bad order card so the request can be evaluated. The car may come off the layout and be sold, scrapped, or retained depending on its condition.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.